

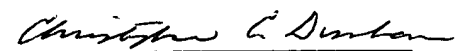
R E M A R K S

Each of claims 3, 5 and 12 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate all recitals of the claim or claims on which it was heretofore dependent. All other claims (1, 2, 4, 6 - 11, and 13 - 28) have been canceled, to expedite prosecution but without prejudice to their presentation in a continuation application. Since the present Amendment does not increase either the total number of claims or the number of independent claims, no additional fee is necessary.

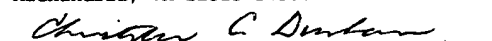
Claims 3, 5 and 12 remain in the application. In the final Office Action dated January 13, 2004, each of these claims was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As stated, this has now been done: claim 3, rewritten in independent form, includes every limitation of claims 1 and 2; claim 5, rewritten in independent form, includes every limitation of claims 1, 2 and 4; and claim 12, rewritten in independent form, includes every limitation of claims 10 and 11.

It is therefore believed that this Amendment will place the application in condition for immediate allowance. Entry of the Amendment, and favorable action, are accordingly courteously requested.

Respectfully,


Christopher C. Dunham
Reg. No. 22,031
Attorney for Applicants
Tel. (212) 278-0400

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Christopher C. Dunham, Reg. No. 22,031
Date JULY 12, 2004